



Victorian
Catholic
Education
Authority

16 May 2024

Victorian Catholic Education Authority appoints new director

The Victorian Catholic Education Authority (VCEA), the peak body for Catholic school education in Victoria, has appointed Chris O’Grady KC to its board.

Mr O’Grady joins VCEA Chair James Merlino and current directors Patricia Cowling, Lynn Glover, Marcelle Mogg and Damian Murphy on the board.

“I congratulate Chris on his appointment and look forward to his contribution to VCEA. We are fortunate to have someone with his experience joining the Board as we work to advance the mission of Catholic school education in the state,” Mr Merlino said.

Mr O’Grady KC practises in industrial and employment law and took silk in 2015. He has a distinguished career and has been involved in a number of the leading employment/industrial cases over the last 20 years. Prior to coming to the Victorian Bar, Chris worked as a junior associate to Sir Gerard Brennan in the High Court of Australia in 1990. In 1991 he worked as associate to Judge John Hassett in the County Court. He is a member of Council, St Mary’s College, University of Melbourne.

In 2018 he was made an honorary life member of the Industrial Relations Society of Victoria and since 2020 he has been a member of the Victorian Bar Readers Course Committee Executive.

In each year from 2017 to date he has been named as one of Doyle’s pre-eminent Senior Counsel of the employment/industrial bar of Victoria. He is also named by Chambers and Partners in their ranking of Australian Silks working in Employment and in Who’s Who Legal Australia and New Zealand in their Labour Employment and Benefits section.

There are more than 158,000 families who choose to send 215,000 students to the 496 Catholic schools in Victoria. This represents 1 in 5 Victorian students.

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